IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4-7 as follows:

1-3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended): A metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising:

a positive electrode;

a separator impregnated with an electrolyte; and

a negative electrode comprising hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder has a layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide formed on the surface thereof, and a catalytic metal or metal compound is dotted on said layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide in a granular state by adding a ~~substrate~~ substance to the negative electrode and/or electrolyte, said substance being ~~which is~~ soluble in the electrolyte~~;~~ , said ~~substrate~~ substance being selected from the group consisting of a metal fluoride, a metal chloride, a metal iodide, and a metal sulfide, wherein said metal chloride is a cobalt chloride and/or a nickel chloride; and

the proportion of said substance to said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is restricted within the range of 0.1 to 2.5 wt%.

5. (Currently Amended): A metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising:

a positive electrode;

a separator impregnated with an electrolyte; and

a negative electrode comprising hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder has a layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide formed on the surface thereof, and a catalytic metal or metal compound is dotted on said layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide in a granular state by adding a ~~substrate~~ substance to the negative electrode and/or the electrolyte, said substance being ~~which is~~ soluble in the electrolyte~~;~~ , said ~~substrate~~ substance being selected from the group consisting of a metal fluoride, a metal chloride, a metal iodide, and a metal sulfide, wherein said metal iodide is a cobalt iodide and/or a nickel iodide; and

the proportion of said substance to said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is restricted within the range of 0.1 to 2.5 wt%.

6. (Currently Amended): A metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising:

a positive electrode;

a separator impregnated with an electrolyte; and

a negative electrode comprising hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder has a layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide formed on the surface thereof, and a catalytic metal or metal compound is dotted on said layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide in a granular state by adding a ~~substrate~~ substance to the negative electrode and/or the electrolyte, said substance being ~~which is~~ soluble in the electrolyte~~;~~ , said ~~substrate~~ substance being selected from the group consisting of a metal fluoride, a metal chloride, a metal iodide, and a metal sulfide, wherein said metal sulfide is a cobalt sulfide and/or a nickel sulfide; and

the proportion of said substance to said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is restricted within the range of 0.1 to 2.5 wt%.

7. (Previously Presented): The metal hydride alkaline storage cell of claim 4, 5, or 6 wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is selected from the group consisting of rare-earth element based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Zr-Ni based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Ti-Fe based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Zr-Mn based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Ti-Mn based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, and Mg-Ni based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Withdrawn): A method of manufacturing a metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising the steps of:

a first step of preparing a negative electrode by applying a paste onto a substrate, wherein said paste contains hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder and a metal compound which is soluble in an electrolyte and selected from the group consisting of a metal fluoride, a metal chloride, a metal iodide, and a metal sulfide, in the proportion of 0.1 to 2.5 wt%. based on the weight of said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder; and

a second step of placing said negative electrode and a positive electrode into a cell can with disposing a separator therebetween, and thereafter pouring an electrolyte into said cell can.

10. (Withdrawn): A method of manufacturing ametal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising the steps of:

a first step of preparing a negative electrode by applying a paste containing a hydrogen absorbing alloy powder onto a substrate; and

a second step of placing said negative electrode and a positive electrode into a cell can with disposing a separator therebetween, and thereafter pouring an electrolyte into said cell can, wherein said electrolyte contains a metal compound which is soluble in said electrolyte and selected from the group consisting of a metal fluoride, a metal chloride, a metal iodide, and a metal sulfide in the proportion of 0.1 to 2.5 wt% based on the weight of said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder.

11. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said metal fluoride is at lest one metal fluoride selected from the group consisting of a cobalt fluoride, a nickel fluoride, an aluminum fluoride, and a copper fluoride.

12. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said metal fluoride is CoF_2 and/or NiF_2.

13. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said metal chloride is a cobalt chloride and/or a nickel chloride.

14. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said methal iodide is a cobalt iodide and/or a nickel iodide.

15. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said metal sulfide is a cobalt sulfide and/or a nickel sulfide.

16. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is selected from the group consisting of rare-earth element based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Zr-Ni based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Ti-Fe based hydrogen absorbing alloy powder, Zr-Mn based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Ti-Mn based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, and Mg-Ni based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder.

17. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder comprises hydrogen-absorbing alloy having a $CaCu_5$ type crystal structure expressed by the general formula $MmNi_aCo_bAl_cMn_d$, where $a>0$, $B>0$, $c>0$, $d\geq 0$, and $4.4\leq a+b+c+d\leq 5.4$.